

Application No. 09/881,785
Response to Office Action Mailed November 28, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1–20 (cancelled).

21. (new) A conference endpoint comprising:

- a telephone line interface for coupling said conference endpoint to a telephone line;
- a network interface for coupling, said conference endpoint to a computer network;
- a microphone for generating near speech signals for transmission over said telephone line, said near speech signals being representative of speech of a near conference participant;
- a speaker for converting to sound remote speech signals received from a remote device over said telephone line, said remote speech signals being representative of speech of at least one remote conference participant;
- a data conference initiation module, coupled to said network interface and to said telephone line interface for transmitting a data conference initiation request to a conference server over said computer network, for receiving a data conference code generated by said conference server, and for responsively transmitting over said telephone line a data conference invitation to said remote device, said conference invitation including information representative of said data conference code.

22. (new) The conference endpoint of claim 21, wherein said data conference initiation engine transmits said conference initiation request in response to a predetermined user input.

23. (new) The conference endpoint of claim 21, further comprising a display device coupled to said network interface for displaying visual information received from said conference server.

24. (new) The conference endpoint of claim 21, wherein the data conference initiation module is further configured to transmit a conference join request to said conference server over said computer network responsive to a received conference invitation.

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25. (new) The conference endpoint of claim 21, wherein said conference invitation comprises a string of Dual Tone Multi-Frequency (DTMF) tones.
26. (new) The conference endpoint of claim 21, further comprising a web browser for displaying text and graphical information received from said conference server.
27. (new) The conference endpoint of claim 21, wherein the data conference initiation module is further configured for transmitting over said computer network a data conference invitation to said remote device.
28. (new) A method for initiating and managing a data conference from a near conference endpoint, comprising:
 - establishing a connection over a telephone line with at least one remote conference endpoint;
 - transmitting a data conference initiation request to a conference server over a computer network;
 - receiving from the conference server a unique data conference code corresponding to said data conference initiation request;
 - generating an audio signal representative of said conference code;
 - transmitting said audio signal to said at least one remote conference endpoint over said telephone network.
29. (new) The method of claim 28, wherein the step of generating an audio code comprises generating a string of DTMF tones.
30. (new) The method of claim 28, wherein the step of transmitting a data conference initiation request is performed in response to a predetermined user input.

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31. (new) A method for initiating and managing a data conference at a conference server, the method comprising the steps of:
 - receiving a conference initiation request from a conference endpoint over a computer network;
 - generating a conference code in response to said conference initiation request;
 - transmitting said conference code to said conference endpoint over the computer network;
 - maintaining a list of data conference participants based on received data conference join requests from one or more conference endpoints; and
 - transmitting conference data to said data conference participants over said computer network.
32. (new) The method of claim 31, wherein the step of transmitting conference data comprises transmitting a web page.
33. (new) The method of claim 31, wherein said data is representative of a document.
34. (new) The method of claim 31, wherein said data is representative of a presentation slide.
35. (new) A machine readable medium having embodied thereon a program, the program being executable by a machine to perform method steps for coordinating a conference utilizing electronic means, the method steps comprising:
 - transmitting a conference initiation request to a conference server over a computer network;
 - receiving a conference code from said conference server over said computer network in response to said conference initiation request;
 - generating an audio signal representative of said conference code; and
 - transmitting said audio signal to at least one conference endpoint over a telephone line.

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36. (new) A machine readable medium having embodied thereon a program, the program being executable by a machine to perform method steps for coordinating a conference utilizing electronic means, the method steps comprising:
 - receiving an audio signal representative of a conference code from at least one conference endpoint over a telephone line; and
 - transmitting a conference join request including said conference code to a conference server over a computer network in response to receiving said audio signal.
37. (new) A conference endpoint comprising:
 - a telephone line interface for coupling the conference endpoint to a telephone line;
 - a network interface for coupling the conference endpoint to a computer network;
 - a microphone for generating near speech signals for transmission over the telephone line, the near speech signals being representative of speech of a near conference participant;
 - a speaker for converting to sound remote speech signals received from a remote device over the telephone line, the remote speech signals being representative of speech of at least one remote conference participant; and
 - a data conference initiation module coupled to the network interface and the telephone line interface and configured to receive over the telephone line interface from a remote conference endpoint a conference invitation including information representative of a data conference code and further configured to transmit a conference join request to a conference server over the computer network in response to the received conference invitation.
38. (new) The conference endpoint of claim 37 further comprising a display device coupled to the network interface for displaying visual information received from the conference server.
39. (new) The conference endpoint of claim 37 wherein the conference invitation comprises a string of dual tone multi-frequency (DTMF) tones.

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40. (new) The conference endpoint of claim 37 further comprising a web browser for displaying text and graphical information received from the conference server.
41. (new) The conference endpoint of claim 37, wherein the data conference initiation module is further configured for receiving over said computer network a data conference invitation from the remote conference endpoint.